



**PFIZER PIGMENTS INC.**

A subsidiary of Pfizer Inc.  
2001 Lynch Avenue, East St. Louis, Ill. 62205

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



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December 12, 1988

**EPA  
Emergency Response**

Mr. Richard Carlson, Director  
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency  
2200 Churchill Road  
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Mr. Carlson:

The following describes the details of the release of a weak sulfuric acid solution from Pfizer's E. St. Louis facility which occurred on December 9, 1988. This incident was assigned IL ESDA Incident Number 881638 by Mr. Chris Mulkin of the Springfield ESDA office.

On the evening of December 9, a leak developed in a fibercast pipeline used to transfer a 14% sulfuric acid in water solution between two production departments. This pipeline is an overhead line suspended above a concrete and asphalt road within Pfizer's plant. The leak, which is estimated to have been about 5 gallons per minute, dripped onto the road and flowed into a catchbasin about 50 feet away. From there, the acid solution entered the plant's sewer system and then was discharged to the American Bottoms Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility in Sauget, IL.

Instrumentation within the plant's sewer system detected the leak and alerted the plant guard, who then notified the wastewater treatment plant operator. The guard and the operator contacted the production department shift supervisors who then began searching for the cause of the low pH. In addition, the wastewater treatment plant operator began adding lime to the sewers to neutralize any acid before it left the plant.

At about 9:30 p.m., the Pigments department shift supervisor found the leak. He immediately had the pump feeding the line shut off and spread lime on the road to neutralize what little acid remained on the surface. He also contacted Jeff Carlton, the plant's Safety/Environmental Engineer at home.

Mr. Carlton contacted American Bottoms, the Illinois ESDA offices in Springfield and St. Clair county, and the National

Response Center in Washington, D.C. Mr. Carlton also spoke with Mr. George Foster of the E. St. Louis ESDA office and Mr. Mark Severns of IEPA in Springfield.

Based upon an estimate of a 5 gallon per minute leak, approximately 475 gallons of 14% sulfuric acid solution, or about 600 pounds of sulfuric acid, was released directly to the sewer. This release did not cause any injuries to either our plant employees nor the local population, nor did this release pose any hazards to the plant, the neighborhood, or the environment. Pfizer's emergency response plan, developed to handle chemical spills, was sufficient to deal with this incidence.

The leaking fibercast line was replaced with a stainless steel line within two days. The production department which produces the acid solution was idled while the line was being replaced.

The following information satisfies the requirements of 35 IL Section 725.156(j):

1. Name, address and telephone number of operator:

Pfizer Pigments Inc.  
2001 Lynch Avenue  
E. St. Louis, IL 62205  
(618) 271-4700

2. Name, address and telephone number of the facility:

Pfizer Pigments Inc.  
2001 Lynch Avenue  
E. St. Louis, IL 62205  
(618) 271-4700

3. Date, time and type of incident:

December 9, 1988 7:45 p.m. (estimate) - 9:45 p.m.

4. Name and quantity of material(s) involved:

14% Sulfuric Acid Solution  
475 gallons of solution (estimated)

5. Injuries:

None

6. Actual/potential hazards to human health or the environment:

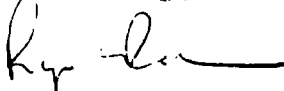
None

7. Estimated quantity and disposition of recovered material:

All of the solution reached Pfizer's plant sewer system, which discharges into the American Bottoms Regional Wastewater Treatment facility in Sauget, Illinois. Less than 100 pounds of lime used to neutralize residual acid on Pfizer's roadway was treated in Pfizer's wastewater neutralization plant.

Please contact me at this location if you need additional information.

Sincerely,



Roger E. Rader  
Plant Manager

cc: Regional Administrator  
United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Region V  
230 South Dearborn St.  
Chicago, IL 60604

Tom Powell  
Emergency Response Specialist  
Division of Land Pollution Control  
2009 Mall St.  
Collinsville, IL 62234

George Foster  
E. St. Louis Emergency Services Disaster Agency Coordinator  
120 N. Third St.  
E. St. Louis, IL 62201

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